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Dream Catcher Therapy Center and End of the Trail Rescue becomes GFAS Verified

March 29, 2011 (Olathe, CO) – [Dream Catcher Therapy Center and End of the Trail Rescue](#), a nonprofit horse rescue organization, became verified as meeting all the requirements of a true rescue/sanctuary by the [Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries](#) (GFAS). The verification means the Colorado-based rescue meets the comprehensive and rigorous definition of a true equine sanctuary/rescue and is providing humane and responsible care of the animals according to the guidelines of GFAS, which is the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries. The verification status also provides a clear and trusted means for public, donors and government agencies to recognize Dream Catcher Therapy Center and End of the Trail Rescue as a credible horse rescue that adheres to the true mission of providing safe haven and humane care for abused animals.

“Dream Catcher Therapy Center and End of the Trail Rescue was formed in 1999 by Bill and Kathy Hamm, inspired in part by wanting to help their daughter Ali, born with Down’s Syndrome. Dream Catcher Therapy Center began with offering hippo-therapy and what has been accomplished since for both children and horses is truly remarkable,” said Jeannine Alexander, GFAS Deputy Director -Equine. The Center has grown into a full-time operation with licensed therapists, counselors, and over 30 well-mannered horses. Additionally, the Center has helped over 1,200 disabled children and adults. It is approved as a Special Olympic Equestrian Center.

While helping children is a major focus, so is helping horses. Alexander notes, “Fighting animal cruelty is also very important to the Dream Catcher Therapy Center and End of the Trail Rescue. The executive director, Kathy Hamm, is a certified equine investigator, having completed the highest training offered by the

University of Missouri in their National Animal Cruelty Investigations School. Hundreds of horses have been helped by this outstanding nonprofit, through rescue and adoption.”

Kathy Hamm states, “Our facility has witnessed for over a decade the healing impact that horses have on individuals with mental and physical challenges. It only seemed natural for us to provide a place of healing and sanctuary for our four-legged therapists. Watching a horse and a child, both from environments filled with abuse and neglect, neither in control, leaning on each other to rebuild broken dreams, trust, and love is truly awe-inspiring.”

Kathy adds, “We are pleased to have achieved recognition and verification by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, an organization that is well respected and shares our values and initiative for the protection of animals.”

GFAS also offers the status of Accreditation, which certifies that the nonprofit has also met standards regarding governance, finance, guidelines, education and outreach, staffing, physical facilities, security and safety, and the veterinary medical program. Patty Finch, GFAS Executive Director notes, “There is only one barrier to this excellent facility becoming accredited. They simply need more cash reserves, a challenge for many nonprofits in this economy. We hope this press release will result in an outpouring of financial support, to get those reserves built up so that we can give this facility the highest rating possible from GFAS.”

For more information on GFAS, please visit www.sanctuaryfederation.org. For additional information on Dream Catcher Therapy Center and End of the Trail Rescue, visit <http://dctc.org/site/>.

About Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the sole purpose of strengthening and supporting the work of animal sanctuaries in the United States and abroad. The goal of GFAS in working with and assisting sanctuaries is to ensure they are supported, honored, recognized and rewarded for meeting important criteria in providing care to the animals in residence. GFAS was founded in 2007 by animal protection leaders from a number of different organizations in response to virtually unchecked and hidden animal exploitation of animals for human entertainment and financial profit. These founding leaders sit on the GFAS Board of Directors to continue guiding the organization’s work in a collaborative manner. They represent top leadership from Born Free USA, The Humane Society of the United States, World Society for the Protection of Animals, American Anti-Vivisection Society, and International Fund for Animal Welfare.